

SHA'AR ZAHAV

פֹּרֶשֶׁת

שער זהב

5739 ס' יי'ן JUNE 1979

gay freedom day parade

Again this year Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will be marching in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. The date of the parade is Sunday, June 24. The time and exact location where we will gather will be announced at services as soon as it is known. If you are unable to attend services, call Daniel Chesir 441-8116, or Rob Montague 929-0162, or Ellis Jacobs 552-6976 for the information.

On Saturday June 23, the day before the parade, there will be a meeting at Bill Goldstein's house, 18 Buena Vista Terrace to make signs and to learn songs for the parade. Everyone is invited. Lets make our turnout at the parade this year even bigger than last year.

from where i stand

On May 15th I attended the dedication of some new facilities at the Jewish Community Library. While the event was significant for a segment of the general community, its implications for Sha'ar Zahav were manifold. I was introduced to several people who hold executive positions in the community, both professional and lay people, who, without exception, when we were introduced, made mention of the fact that either they had heard of us before, or that they felt that "we" should meet to begin to implement a directive which had come from Brian Lurie at the Jewish Welfare Federation. (Brian's directive was transmitted to the executives of the agencies supported by the Federation to insure that gays and lesbians should know about the available services.)

Some of the folks who were involved in this, and who were present at the Library dedication, were: Sidney Greenberg, Director of the Bureau of Jewish Education; Julius Blackman, Executive Director of the Hebrew Free Loan Association; Arthur Zimmerman, President of Zim's Restaurants; Malcom Sparer, President of the Northern California Board of Rabbis. Also present were numbers of lay people from other areas of the Jewish Community.

At the same time, one of the directors of the library took me aside to ask me if I knew of any leads on materials which the library was trying to obtain on the subject of homosexuals and the Holocaust.

Once again it had become apparent that our cry for acceptance in San Francisco had been heard, and that there were (and are) people in this town in positions of influence from which they could positively respond with leadership in the struggle for our acceptance into the community. Some of these folks seemed to be behaving as though they had always felt that we were accepted, that our demand for recognition as a legitimate and acceptable group was possibly unnecessary or inappropriate because we had already got what we were seeking.

The eye-opener has been bi-directional. While it has been gratifying, at the very least, that the professional leadership in this Jewish Community has responded so positively to our outcry and outreach, (and I admit that in most cases the response had dramatically exceeded my expectations) it is my opinion that this response is not an indication that "we have arrived," rather, I believe that the community leadership is attempting actually to lead towards acceptance a constituency which is either apathetic to or even

hostile to our way of being, and which could lead to a grassroots backlash. Our "culturally conservative" neighbors, I fear, may not yet feel ready to adopt the "politically liberal" stance of that leadership, and I am worried that we are being lulled into a sense of false security by the openness of a well-intentioned leadership who may well not be leading. I hope that I am wrong in saying this, but my fear remains, for any number of reasons, all the same.

At the same time, I am concerned that the professional Jewish leadership does not realize that they may well be speaking to themselves alone, and that their good intentions will need to be enacted or actualized in such a way so as to maximize the likelihood of their acceptance by the general community. In other words, it is possible that the leadership may be believing naively that just because they say we're "o.k." they will be convincing to the apathetic or hostile general Jewish community who remain convinced that we are not only "not o.k." but that we are the ogres that Briggs and Bryant say we are.

What does this mean for us? It means a couple of things at least: first, that the potential for good has been placed directly in front of us and that we have the urgent responsibility to seize this opportunity and to make the best of it, despite the inevitable, coeval disappointments that we will experience while we try to exploit the good for the best.

Second, and more importantly, we have started something; we have issued a challenge and the Jewish community leadership has accepted that challenge. And so, now, we are either going to have to take ourselves seriously as Jews, helping to make our dream come true on an ongoing basis, or we are going to have to admit that, having gained some modicum of what we "shried" about for the last several years, we now realize that it's not what we really wanted or what we thought we were getting. We are finding that, as we were warned, "establishment" Judaism is so replete with "isms" which we find unacceptable (sexism, ageism, classism, etc.-ism), that now we may be being accepted by it, that we actually don't want to be part of it.

Personally, I think there may be a middle ground, if not a synthesis of these positions, which would be preferable to the extremes mentioned above. What I do not know, is where that position is, and that even if we were to find it, how long it would stay there. What I do know, is that we must continue to try to remain aware of the context in which we are operating, so that we may continue to adequately evaluate the factors which are shaping our future in this community.

Lets' keep talking about this. Our mutual communication will help us to safeguard our interests as we cautiously progress in the society in which we live.

MAZEL TOV to Ed Gabay who is opening up his new dental offices at 4053 18th Street (across from the Jaguar Book Store) at Hartford, San Francisco. Call him for an appointment at 863-9131.

MAZEL TOV to Aryae Levy on his new business venture GREAT OUTDOOR ADVENTURES UNLMTD. This new camping, hiking, backpacking and other outdoor activities group has some very interesting activities planned. Contact him at 826-8857 for their brochure.



JERUSALEM FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES.

donations

If you would like to donate to the congregation in honor of an event (a new residence, car, etc) or a person (a new partner, etc) or in the memory of someone, such contribution will be graciously accepted by Sha'ar Zahav. Contribution in any amount (\$2.00 minimum) will be most welcome. If you would like your contribution not acknowledged in the FORWARD, please note that on your check.

from a co-leader

Nearly 2 years have passed since Sha'ar Zahav's establishment. We now have a home that will serve us well until we can obtain a permanent location. As evidenced by our being at the Jewish Community Center we've achieved a measure of acceptance from San Francisco's Jewish community. Our relationships with our straight co-religionists have been greatly aided by the activities of our Rabbi, Alan Bennett, and, we are now preparing for the annual congregational change of leadership.

Three of the four members of the Executive Committee have been elected: myself as co-leader, Ron Lezell as Treasurer and Steven Fritsch-Rudser as Recorder. The post of female co-leader is vacant; we hope that it will be filled soon. We collectively hope to fulfill our mandates, both in terms of the functions of our specific offices and as the elected representatives of the Congregation.

This past year has been, among other things, a learning experience for me. At the recent Congregational meeting, I opposed changing the description of co-leader to moderator. Although we will always need a "moderating" influence...for there will always be differences regarding goals, priorities and methods of accomplishing our objectives, and these differences will have to be resolved as "smoothly" as possible...Sha'ar Zahav needs strong leadership.

In accordance with our by-laws, the terms of the non-officer members of the Va'ad...our Steering Committee...are coterminous with those of the officers: All terms begin the first of July. The by-laws provide that membership on the Va'ad is composed of the four officers and the chairs (or other elected representatives) of the several standing committees. Consequently, there will be a meeting of each committee during the last 2 weeks of June to choose their new chairs and/or representatives to the Va'ad. These dates are noted elsewhere in this issue of the Forward. If you have any interest in ~~any~~ of the committees, now would be a good time to get involved.

This system was designed to ensure "grass-roots" participation in congregational management. The assumption was that there would be broad participation in the work of the several committees and that the consequent "elections" of Va'ad members would involve many people. In actuality, this is not the way matters have developed. Many committees have one or two members. There frequently seems to be a game of "musical chairs" being played to fill the various positions.

Although we will be proceeding with our presently-established system in July, I feel more and more strongly that we should broaden the base of the Va'ad by having the members of the Congregation vote for all Va'ad members, not just the 4 officers. Coupled with a system of forming committees under the guidance of the Va'ad this would increase direct member input into the basic structure of the congregation while at the same time enabling the committee structure and leadership to be more flexible to meet our changing needs.

A basic re-structuring of this nature would necessitate a special congregational meeting to revise the by-laws. I would prefer not to wait until our next regularly scheduled meeting in November to consider these matters and so I will call a special meeting of the Congregation in the early fall to discuss the issue of re-organization. At that time, formal proposals for change will be made. In the next few months, it would be helpful if we would discuss among ourselves various alternatives for Sha'ar Zahav's structure. I would be very grateful for specific suggestions that you may have in regards together, we can form an organization that can effectively meet our goals with maximum membership participation in all of our activities.

Daniel Chesir

congregation meeting

A congregational meeting of Sha'ar Zahav was held on May 11, 1979 after Shabbat services. Elections took place and Daniel Chesir was re-elected Co-Leader, Ron Lezell was re-elected Treasurer and Steven Fritsch Rudser was elected Recorder. Steven Fritsch Rudser had been acting Recorder for several months. The office of female Co-Leader is still vacant. If anyone is interested in that office please contact Daniel Chesir or any member of the Va'ad.

There were several By-law changes voted upon. An amendment relating to the modification of a member's dues when warranted by a change in economic status passed as did an amendment relating to the period of time before a person can vote at a congregational meeting after s/he becomes a member. A proposed By-law changing the title of Co-Leader to Co-Moderator failed. A resolution authorizing the Va'ad to establish a fund raising campaign for the purpose of acquiring a building passed.

women rabbis

by Marcia Rudin

During the first day of nursery school at the Stephan Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, Associate Rabbi Sally Preisand told the young children a story. That night the mother of one of the boys showed him a picture of another rabbi in a book she was reading. "He's not a rabbi," the child declared. "Rabbis are women!"

Everyone will soon be getting used to women rabbis. Thirteen have been ordained in recent years, in this country and England. And, with women filling more than one-quarter of the students' seats today, many more will be coming along in the near future.

Still, it took half a century from the day in 1922 when the Reform Central Conference of American Rabbis (C.C.A.R.) approved the ordination of women until Sally Preisand, who has been associate rabbi at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue since her ordination, became the first seminary-ordained woman in 1972.

Several women before her had made the attempt. Martha Neumark studied at H.U.C. for eight years in the 1920s but was denied ordination by a rabbis' committee. Regina Jonas was ordained privately in Germany in the 1930s after she was refused ordination by the Berlin Academy for the Science of Judaism. She officiated until 1940 in homes for the elderly and perished in the Theresienstadt concentration camp. Helen Leventhal, who completed the H.U.C. program in the 1940s was refused ordination.

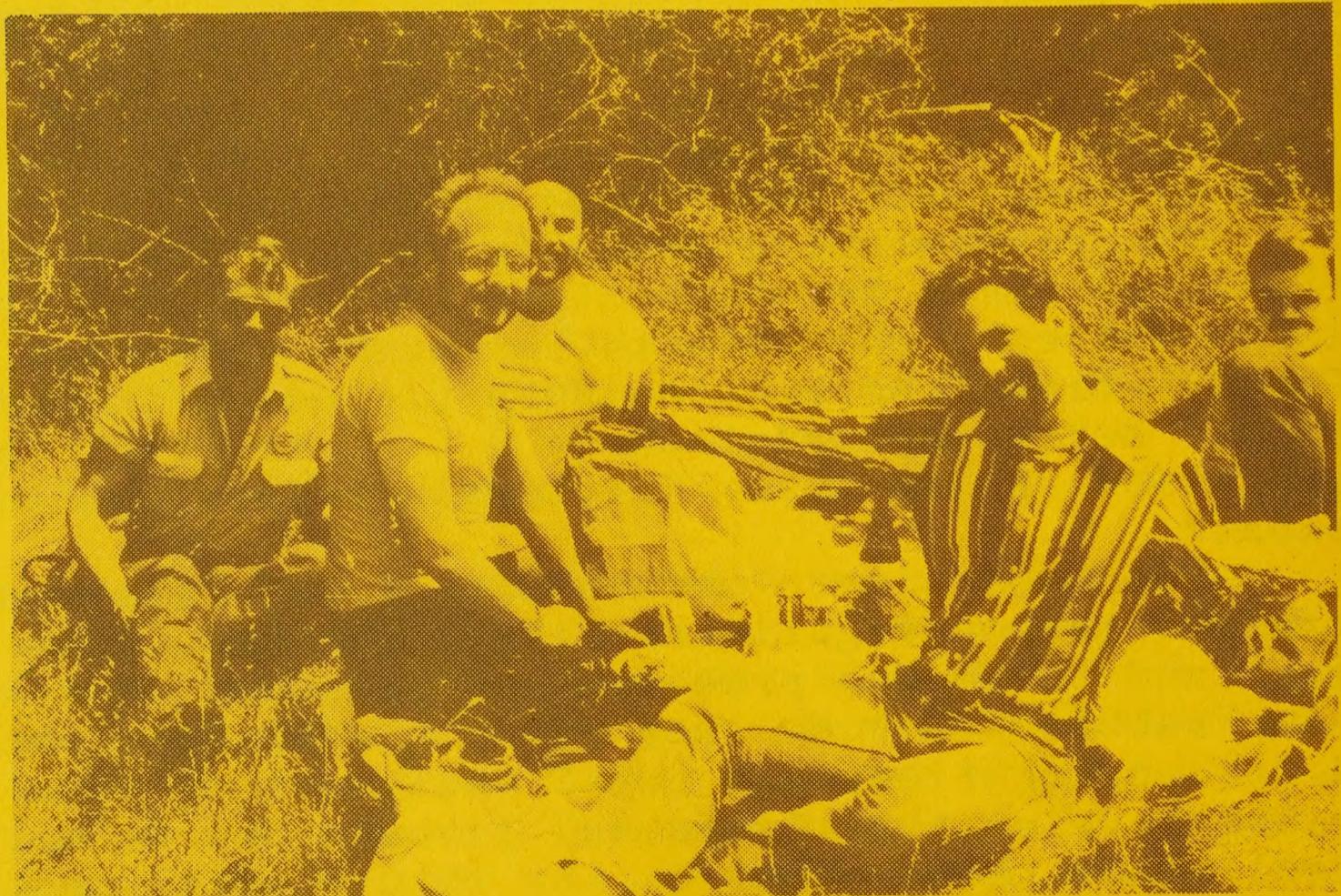
Sandra Eisenberg Sasso (popularly known as "Sandy"), the first woman Reconstructionist rabbi, who graduated in 1974, shares a pulpit with her husband, Dennis, in the Conservative Congregation Beth El-Zedeck in Indianapolis. Michal Bernstein, ordained by H.U.C. in 1975, headed a congregation in San Jose, California before she left the rabbinate.

Four women were ordained by H.U.C. last June: three are now in congregational life. Why did these young women, and those who preceded and followed them want to become rabbis? How do they fare in rabbinical school, student congregations and jobs? What effect does being a rabbi have on their personal lives? How do male rabbis feel about them? What is the future employment outlook? What effects are they likely to have on Judaism and Jewish life?

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



↑
THE SHA'AR ZAHAV PICNIC
↓





OUR BOOTH AT THE HAIGHT-ASHBURY STREET FAIR



When Rosalind Gold first told her parents she wanted to become a rabbi, they asked if she was serious. "They thought I'd go back to my original goal of being a speech therapist," she recalls. "But once they realized I was committed, they were supportive and encouraging. Now they... and my whole family... are very proud of me."

Rosalind, who grew up in Los Angeles in a classically Reform family and attended the University of California at Los Angeles, became a rabbi, as she puts it, "to teach Jews about the things I think are exciting about being Jewish, to share a mutual tradition, to reach out to people in need."

Like Rabbi Gold, the other women are young, dynamic and dedicated, and are deeply committed to strengthening Jewish life. But each has a unique style, vision and personal goals. Laura Geller, who believes Hillel work is "critical," wants to help college students discover what it means to be Jewish. Karen Fox perceives Jewish values as "communal and not necessarily religious," deemphasizes her role as a spiritual leader and stresses community and social action. Julia Neuberger wants to build an "educated and committed community in the Diaspora, particularly in Europe after the Holocaust." Lynn Gottlieb, a student in the history department at the Jewish Theological Seminary, now serves a deaf congregation in New York City. She wants to become a rabbi so she can revitalize the tradition of dramatic storytelling within the framework of institutional Judaism, to make the heritage more vivid.

Most of the women rabbis and prospective rabbis I spoke with agreed with Rosalind Gold that women can contribute "a special sensitivity" to their work. Several said that congregants often come to them for counseling because they feel more comfortable talking their problems out with a woman. Myra Soifer pointed out that because women "have been in the "out group" for along time we can bring to the rabbinate certain perspectives that the "in group" simply doesn't have."

(continued next month)

committee dates

The following committee dates have been set. At all the meetings there will be elections for new committee chairpersons. Anyone who is interested in any of the committees may attend. Our congregation is always looking for new committee-people.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This committee will meet on Thursday, June 21, at 7p.m. in front of Denebeim's Kosher Vegetarian Restaurant on Polk Street (and, thereafter, proceed to dinner therein). For those of you who do not know the chairperson, Mike Zimmerman, he will be carrying an educational Jewish book. If you want to be on the committee, but cannot attend, call Mike at 433-0565 (days).

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

This committee will meet at Sam Thal's house, 268 Gold-mine Drive at 8 p.m. on June 14. His phone is 285-2055.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

This committee will meet at Bob Ehrenberg's house, 2215 California Street at 8 p.m. on June 17. His phone is 563-2055

ONEG COMMITTEE

This committee will meet at Bill Goldstein's house, 18 Buena Vista Terrace at 7 p.m. on 18 June. His phone number is 552-5573.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee will meet at Bill Goldstein's house, 18 Buena Vista Terrace at 8:30 p.m. on 18 June. His phone number is 552-5573.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

This committee will meet at Rob Montague's house, 650 Masonic Avenue at 7:30 p.m. on June 19. His phone number is 929-0162.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

This committee will meet at Ellis Jacobs' apartment 427A Buena Vista East at 7:30 on June 28. His phone number is 552-6976

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee will meet at Tom Rothgiesser's apartment at 8 p.m. on June 20. Contact Tom for directions to his place. His phone number is 775-4386.

RITUAL COMMITTEE

This committee will meet at Daniel Chesir's place, 631 O'Farrell Street at 7:30 p.m. on June 26. His phone number is 441-8116.

treasurer's report

A comprehensive budget for fiscal 1980 (July 1, 1979-June 30, 1980) was presented at the May 11 Congregational meeting. Some may say that a budget is much like goosing butterflies.....it just really isn't of much substance. But a well-run Synagogue must plan for the future. Therefore, this budget was prepared based on the reasonable expectations of all the committee Chairs.

Highlights include projected revenues of \$25,700, expenses of \$21,100 and a steadily increasing membership to a level of 50% greater than at present. The budget does not provide for a full-scale building campaign which the members authorized the Va'ad to pursue at the Congregational Meeting.

To achieve our revenue goals, which are approximately 100% greater than 1979 fiscal year, your continued attention to the prompt payment of your dues pledge is sorely needed.

Thank you and shalom!

Ron Lezell

P. S.: If you would like a copy of the budget, please see me at services or drop a line to the Synagogue.

OUTREACH REACHES OUT:

Following a period of quiescence (partly due to the Chair's lassitude) the Outreach Committee is thrilled to announce the following events:

Tuesday evening, June 19th, at 7:30 p.m., the Committee will meet at Rob Montague's house (650 Masonic Ave., #12 -- Muni Lines 5, 21 or 43) to elect a new Chair for the coming year. To be a candidate or to vote at this meeting, you must be a member of the congregation. Non-members may attend and otherwise participate in the meeting. The new Chair will take office July 1st.

Saturday afternoon, June 23rd, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m., Outreach will host members of the Congregation for a sign-painting and song-learning party in preparation for the Gay Freedom Day Parade! This terrific event will take place at Bill Goldstein's house, 18 Buena Vista Terrace (off the corner of Duboce and Buena Vista East, by the park. #43 bus from Church Street Station stops right in front, or take any Haight Street Bus and walk up the hill). We will provide painting materials and song-sheets, but feel free to bring things -- please call Rob Montague at home (929-0162) to let him know what you're bringing. We will have munchies and stuff; please BRING YOUR OWN DRINKABLES.

PARADE DETAILS: We don't know yet what our position and assembly point will be. As soon as we know, we will be announcing them at Friday evening services. We will also advise the answering service (626-3131).

PARADE MONITORS: The Parade Committee has requested that each organization in the parade provide at least two monitors. Anyone interested in serving as a parade monitor this year, please call Rob Montague at the above number and let him know. We will inform the Parade Committee and give you the necessary information so you can attend the Monitor training.

Happy June!

yahrzeit

June 4 Tina Goldblum

June 12 Holzman

June 13 Miriam Presberg

June 14 Mollie Auerbach



ABRAHAM'S OAK, NEAR HEBRON.

Onegs are a joy, for not only do they honor someone else or allow everyone to share in your special joy, they also add extra sweetness to the Shabbat. So why not sponsor an oneg. They are inexpensive. Just call Bill Goldstein 552-5573 or see him at services.

oneg

June 1 Tom Rothgiesser and George Lucas in honor of our Torah rededication

June 8 Bob Ehrenberg

June 15 Mike Zimmerman

June 22 Sam Thal in honor of his nephew's Bar-Mitzvah

June 29 Jerry Moore and Ellis Jacobs

services

The following people are scheduled to conduct services at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on the dates shown.

June 1 Daniel Chesir and Allan Bennett

June 8 Rob Tat and Jordan Lee

June 15 Joint services with the Aquarian Minyan (an artistically oriented Jewish experiential worship group which is well known in the bay area for its interesting programs)

June 22 Steven Fritsch Rudser and Burton Weiss

June 29 Daniel Chesir

If any of you are interested in conducting our services, please call Rabbi Bennett, 552-6766.

reminder

Just a reminder, if you have recently moved or, more importantly, are planning to move, please send a change of address card to our Congregation at P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco 94101 right away. Otherwise it costs us 25¢ to get your change of address from the Post Office.

calendar of events

June 1 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Second Day Shavout (traditional).
Torah Rededication. Special Torah reading,
Duet. 14:22-16:17; Num. 28:26-31. Special
prophetic reading, Habakkuk 3:1-19.

June 8 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Torah portion, Nao, Num. 4:21-7:89.
Prophetic reading, Judges 13:2-25.

June 15 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Torah Portion, Pe-Ha'alotkha, Num. 8:1-
12:16.. Prophetic reading, Zechariah 2:14-
4:7.

June 22 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Torah portion, Shelah Lekha, Num. 13:1-
14:41. Prophetic reading, Joshua 21:1-24.

June 29 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Torah portion. Korah, Num 16:1-18:32.
Prophetic reading, I Samuel 11:14-12:22.

July 7 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Torah portion, Valak, Num. 22:2-25:9.
Prophetic reading, Micah 5:6-6:8.

All Services held at the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California Street at Presido.

SHA'AR ZAHAV

THE CONGREGATION OF THE GOLDEN GATE Box 5640 San Francisco, Calif
Tel: 626-3131 94101

Reaching out to the Gay Community of the Bay Area